

AIR POUCH

SECRET

(Security Classification)

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

EXCIS

FROM AMEMBASSY, Jidda

COPY NO 1

DESP. NO.

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

July 18, 1955

REF Embtel July 15.

ANWARA LONDON BAGHDAD

71	ACTION	DEPT
For Dept.	NEA	I N R M R O L I E U R P 5/5 S/P R E G C A I R O
Use Only	REC'D 7/27	F OTHER O C I A U S I A O S O A R M Y N A V Y A I R D A M A S C U S

SUBJECT: Transmitting Memorandum-Record of Audience with King Saud, at Jidda July 10, 1955.

In the reference telegram I reported highlights of the audience in question and outlined His Majesty's reply to the representations regarding the situation in Syria which I was directed to make by Deptel II of July 9.

The enclosed memorandum-record of the audience merits, I believe, careful perusal by the concerned officers of the Department. It has been prepared from running notes taken by Embassy Counselor Jenkins and has been closely checked by the Embassy's Arab Consultant, who acted as interpreter, and edited by myself.

His Majesty not only volunteered to "assume the responsibility" to take up with the Syrian Government the views thus voiced by me but also spoke freely on a number of other subjects which are listed and numbered at the head of the enclosed memorandum-record. With respect to these other subjects, (as so numbered)

1) Opening Presentations and Remarks. It will be noted that I arranged that General Schlatter and I should review current MAAG problems with Minister of Defense Prince Mishaal. Of these the most important was maintenance for the nine recently delivered B-26 aircraft. This was reported in mytel 13 of July 14.

3) Jewish Pressure for U.S.-Israeli Pact. This question was raised by the King immediately after our discussion of the "Situation in Syria" (item 2 on the list).

I trust that my reply, which was based on my recollection of Deptel 713 of June 15, will meet with the Department's approval.

4) Will U.S. Adhere to Baghdad Pact? The essence of my reply was that no decision as to whether we would join the Pact had as yet been taken but that we "continued to support it strongly". I spoke in this connection of certain impressions I had gathered during my recent visit to Turkey. This led to the next point raised by His Majesty:

5) King Queries Turkish Position:

Gwadsworth/trg

REPORTER

SECRET

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

This document must be destroyed after 10 years.

100-36A/7-11835

HO

REVIEWED BY DATE 4/13/80

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/WR

Memo

Date 8-7-70

(Classification)

6) Saudi-US Friendship (Kern Visit). It was I who raised this subject, wishing to express appreciation for the assurance--

which I had been told His Majesty had sent by Mr. Kern to President Eisenhower and Secretary Dulles. The Department will have noted in my reference telegram that, after the audience, the King's Private Secretary gave me to understand that it would be a disappointment to His Majesty were some reply not to be forthcoming. I should appreciate a word from the Department on this score.

7) Beer for USAF at Dhahran Air Field. I trust the Department and Air Force Secretary Talbott, at whose instance I raised this subject, will approve my presentation thereof, supplemented as it was by General Schlatter. The result, as I feared it would be, was disappointing. His Majesty's most important comment was: "The point is not a question of religious objection to your people following customs permitted by their religion but simply this, that the import of Hamra (drink) is not permitted by Islamic Law."

8) Prospective a rival of Rear Admiral Dudley. My mention of this subject was designed simply to prepare the way for early presentation of our new COMID-EASTFOR.

SECRET

Page 3 of
Desp. No. 8
From Jidda

SECRET
(Classification)

Page of
Encl. No.
Desp. No.

New Subject: The Department will find, in a postscript to the enclosed memorandum-record, brief account of informal remarks made by His Majesty during dinner following this audience. One of these merits special mention here, i.e. his request that the Department enquire as to the possibility of reengaging the services of Mr. David Rogers as Director of the Royal Farm at El-Kharj. I should appreciate receiving from the Department early word regarding this matter also.

Finally, I should appreciate the Department sending copies of this despatch to the Embassies in Cairo, Baghdad, Damascus, Ankara and London and to such, if any, other posts as, in its view, might be interested in receiving copies.

G. Wadsworth

GWADSWORTH

Att
Enclosure:

✓ Memorandum-record of Audience with King Saud
at Taif, July 10, 1955.

Att
SECRET

SECRET
(Classification)

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Taif, July 10, 1955

Participants: His Majesty King Saud Prince Faisal
Ambassador Wadsworth Prince Misha'al, Defense Minister
General Schlatter Khalid Gargoni, Royal Counselor
Counselor Jenkins Jamal Hussaini, Royal Counselor
Muhammad Massoud, Embassy Arab Consultant and Interpreter

Subjects: 1) Opening Presentation and Remarks.
2) Situation in Syria.
3) Jewish Pressure for U.S.-Israeli Pact.
4) Will U.S. Adhere to Baghdad Pact?
5) King Queries Turkish Position.
6) Saudi-U.S. Friendship (Kern Visit).
7) Beer for USAF at Dhahran Air Field.
8) Prospective Arrival of Rear Admiral Dudley.
9) Saudi-British Friction re Buraimi and Oman Frontier.

1) Opening Presentations and Remarks.

After formal presentation of General Schlatter and Counselor Jenkins, and customary compliments, the Ambassador said he had not only wished to present the General to His Majesty as Commander in Chief but had also hoped it would be agreeable to His Majesty were he and General Schlatter to have with Prince Misha'al a full review of current Military Mission matters.

General Schlatter: "I feel strongly the importance of the work I am sent here to do, and I shall work with the people here to the best of my ability."

King: "Prince Misha'al will always be ready to cooperate and give assistance."

General Schlatter: "I am proud to meet Prince Misha'al."

King: "So far as we have mutuality of effort, every obstacle will be overcome."

Ambassador: "Our foremost problem has been to get a workable plan on paper; another is maintenance for the recently delivered B-26 aircraft."

"I have hoped, too, that it will be agreeable that I take this occasion to convey to Your Majesty a message just received from my Government on the situation in Syria and to request Your Majesty's consideration of a subject raised in a recent letter from General Tunner. " (Note: The King indicated assent.)

2) Situation in Syria.

Ambassador: "As I read this morning the telegraphic message from my

SECRET

SECRET

(Classification)

Government concerning the Syrian situation, I felt sure Your Majesty would personally wish to hear it and perhaps wish me to discuss it with Prince Faisal. We have been troubled, Your Majesty, for a long time about developments in Syria.

"When I telegraphed my Government I was to be received in audience by Your Majesty today, I asked if there was any special question which it would like me to mention. In reply I received this message. I would like to read its substance to Your Majesty.

"First, however, I should like to offer a word of explanation. There have been accusations recently published in the Syrian press and broadcast over the Syrian radio that the United States has been intriguing in Syria. So the first of the four points my Government wishes me to make is on that subject:

"(1) My Government wishes to assure Your Majesty that, despite recent charges of US intrigue in Syria, American representatives have not and will not be permitted to become involved in local or regional Arab politics. This is true for all Arab countries as well as for Syria."

"(2) My Government is, at the same time, increasingly concerned at the external and internal threat of international communism to the free nations of this area. Any special association which we may form with one or more of these Middle East countries is based essentially on our desire to assist in meeting this danger."

"In this connection I venture to recall that this theme was stressed by Admiral Cassady and General Tunner at audiences which you kindly granted us last March and April.

"(3) The present highly unstable situation in Syria gives my Government increasing concern, because it provides an exceptionally favorable opportunity for the extension of communist influence. We believe the co-operation between certain elements in the present Syrian Government and various disruptive elements in Syria presents a very real threat to the whole Arab world. These disruptive elements, we believe, include not only the Communist Party itself, but also communist-infiltrated socialist groups as well."

"As I see it, we find, in this very instability, particularly favorable ground for sowing these seeds both in socialist and younger army officer groups; and the present Syrian Government seems actually to be encouraging, through its cooperation with these groups, their politically disruptive course.

"Further, there are today in Syria four communist diplomatic missions: Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary; and now we learn that

arrangements were made in Damascus to exchange diplomatic representatives with Bulgaria.

"And, now, there is a proposal before the Syrian Parliament for recognition

SECRET

Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____

SECRET
(Classification)

Page 3 of
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 8
From Jidda

of Communist China. There are pressures for this in Syria; but surely this is not in accord with any declared Arab League policy. To me it indicates that these same disruptive elements in Syria are today doing their best to drive the country into the hands of the communists.

"The fourth and last point of my Government's message, I am specially directed to say, is made in the light of its long friendly association with Your Majesty's Government. It is this:

"(4) Your Majesty's opposition to communism and other disruptive elements within your own country is well known to my Government. On this we have no doubt whatsoever. Nothing could be clearer. Yet to us it seems at times almost as if Your Majesty's Government, by its support, was encouraging the present Government of Syria in its tolerance of and apparent cooperation with these same disruptive elements within Syria. We question, in all sincerity and friendship, that this is in the true interest of the Arab World, and indeed of Your Majesty's Government itself."

King: "Have you finished?"

Ambassador: "Yes, Your Majesty."

SECRET

61
EE

SECRET

(Classification)

b1
EF

[REDACTED]

3) Jewish Pressure for U.S.-Israeli Pact.

[REDACTED]

Ambassador: "That the Jews want it, is true; that we are signing such a pact is not true."

[REDACTED]

b(1)
EB

Ambassador (continuing): "If Turkey, Iraq and others form a Northern Tier, with American support, the Israelis argue that they should, for their part, have some comparable American assurance as to their security. The fact is we are not signing any such thing; and, personally, I doubt that we would ever sign a pact with Israel unless, at the same time, we were ready to sign substantially the same thing with Arab states."

King: "With Iraq?"

Ambassador: "And with other Arab states."

4) Will U.S. Adhere to Baghdad Pact?

The King continued with his second point: "Another bit of information which we have received, also denied by the American Government, is that the U.S. will join the Baghdad Pact."

Ambassador: "No decision has been taken to do so. Our present policy, as I see it, is that we can be more helpful to the Northern Tier arrangement by not joining it. We do continue to support it strongly. Our support is based on military considerations. I was very much struck on my recent trip when the Deputy Chief of the Turkish General Staff used almost these same words. He said it is a policy of building military strength against Russia."

"I also had almost three hours' briefing by my own people in Turkey on developments since my departure early in 1952 and since Turkey had joined NATO. This, too, indicated a clear conviction that this Northern Tier concept is a matter of military policy and not of area politics. The Turks, I believe, fear Russian treachery more today than ever before in history."

SECRET

Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____

SECRET
(Classification)

Page 5 of 5
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 8
From Jidda

The Ambassador continued: "The Pakistanis, I also gathered, are thinking in these same terms of military defense. It is this that my government wants to support. We want to give this help where it is needed. The Pakistani Ambassador, too, talked with me in almost these same terms last night in Jidda."

[REDACTED]

Ambassador: "I talked with the President of Turkey, with Prime Minister Menderes, and with the very able former Foreign Minister Fuad Kuprulu. As I see it, there is not the slightest hesitation in Turkey about holding the line against the Russians."

... and there is a new cabinet, would|

Ambassador: "As I see it, there can only be a swing back to the former party in power, the Republican party of Attaturk, and it will, of course, be just as strongly anti-Russian."

6) Saudi-US Friendship (Kern Visit).

Ambassador: "I want to thank Your Majesty for the words which you spoke to Mr. Kern of NEWSWEEK during my absence. I was sorry not to see him personally."

[REDACTED]

Ambassador: "Admiral Cassady said something which in a way was an answer. He said, in substance, if war comes, you will find us out here defending your country as a part of this vital area."

[REDACTED]

In a showdown,

SECRET

SECRET
(Classification)

such as that to which Your Majesty referred, you, in my view, will be with us and we with you."

[REDACTED] b6
b7C
EB

7) Beer for USAF at Dhahran Air Field.

Ambassador: "With Your Majesty's permission, I should now like to speak of the letter from General Tunner which I earlier mentioned. It conveys thanks and respects from Secretary Talbott. Mr. Talbott recalls he spoke very seriously with Your Majesty concerning the importance of maintaining the high morale of our Air Force men wherever they may be stationed. He told Your Majesty that, of some 450 bases used by the USAF throughout the world, there is only one where the men cannot have their beer."

[REDACTED] b6
b7C
EB

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

General Schlatter: "Please assure His Majesty from me that I realize his great problem. I rely on his good judgment in doing his best to help our people to be happy in their work."

[REDACTED] b6
b7C
EB

Ambassador: It was a great failure, probably the greatest failure any law has achieved in our history. A State cannot rule men's morals; but Religion can. It is there that I find the essential difference in our positions. If there is any possible way, within the framework of religion, of mutual respect between the religions of my 'People of the Book' and those of the Dar ul-Islam, to permit Christians to follow their customs, customs which are not permitted to Moslems, but without harm to Islam, then, I believe, our problem can be solved by Your Majesty.

King: "The point is not a question of religious objection to your people following customs permitted by their religion but simply this, that the import of Hamra (drink) is not permitted by Islamic law."

General Schlatter: "Please tell His Majesty that I have met his subjects in America studying in Air Force Schools. They were far from home, and lonesome. I have talked with them. In Dhahran my own men are lonely. When I see a possibility to make my men happier, I hope I may, with the Ambassador's help, come to Your Majesty with my problems. I shall always strive to make my men happy in a strange country."

SECRET

Page _____ of
Desp. No. _____
From _____

SECRET
(Classification)

Page 7 of
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 8
From Jidda

8) Prospective Arrival of Rear Admiral Dudley.

Ambassador: "I hope to have that pleasure soon again, perhaps when our new Admiral commanding U.S. Naval Forces in the Middle East visits me in Jidda. I hope to have him with me at the time of the royal parade after the Hajj. Perhaps I may have the honor of presenting him on that occasion."

King: "Inshallah."

9) Saudi-British Friction re Buraimi and Oman Frontier.

60
E

Page _____ of _____

Desp. No. _____

From _____

SECRET

(Classification)

Page 8 of 10

Encl. No. 1

Desp. No. 8

From Jidd

1954

SECRET

(Classification)



Ambassador: "I shall not fail to communicate Your Majesty's words to my Government. And, now, while I do not believe we have 'overstayed our welcome' I fear that we may have tired Your Majesty. I have appreciated very highly this most helpful discussion."

Here the audience ended, with the King inviting his American guests to dinner.

P.S. At dinner the King spoke with obvious pleasure of his forthcoming visits to Iran and India; he would leave for Teheran so soon as possible after the Pilgrimage and for India, he hoped, a month or two later. He had me talk of Persia in the days of Reza Shah.

His Majesty also, in reply to my enquiry, spoke of his health. (I had heard that, with blood pressure above normal, he had found trying the altitude of Taif, some 5,500 feet.) He said he felt well and had enjoyed his visit to the southern tribes but believed he would be more comfortable in Jidda and planned to come down in about a week.

The tanker Saud I, he said, would stop at Jidda at that time; he would like to visit it and would probably stay on in Jidda, except for visits to Mecca and Medina, through the end of the Pilgrimage and the annual military

SECRET

review.

We also spoke of the Royal Farm at El Kharj. He said he had asked Aramco to find him again some Americans to direct its work; the best man they had had was the first director, David Rogers, who had been sent by President Roosevelt from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

(Note: It was in reply to an appeal from King Abdul Aziz in 1942 that President Roosevelt sent a first agricultural mission to Saudi Arabia to survey possibilities for alleviating war-time food shortages. Rogers headed a second mission sent in 1944 and appears, from Embassy records, to have stayed till 1946, from which date until early this year Aramco-employed experts directed the El-Kharj project which Rogers had initiated.)

His Majesty suggested that I enquire whether Rogers, by any chance, might again be available for the directorship and, if not, that it might be able to obtain his advice as to the choice of a new man.

I replied that I would be glad to convey his suggestion to the Department with the request that it consult with Mr. Duce (Aramco Vice President) in the matter.

His Majesty spoke, too, of Shaikh Abdullah el-Khayal, Saudi Ambassador designate to the United States who had left for Washington the same morning. His Majesty said: "Abdullah has our high confidence; he is an understanding man who knows our aims and purposes." (Note: The Embassy is endeavoring to collect material for a further report on the new Ambassador.)

Dinner was excellent with the usual seven courses beginning with His Majesty's favorite creamed-mushroom soup. Three of the other courses were from his American Kitchen, two were "oriental"; the last was fruit--grapes from Taif (the original cause of the Prophet's ban against alcoholic drink) and others from Beirut and Asmara.

The setting, in the newly renovated white limestone Taif Palace, built shortly before his death but never lived in by King Abdul Aziz, was spacious and pleasing. Some two to three score villas had been hastily built to house the royal entourage and guests, and camped about on all sides were the three battalions of the Royal Guard and some two to three thousand of His Majesty's picturesque white-robed Khuwiyeh.

SECRET